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A

VIEW OF THE WHOLE GROUND:

BEING THE WHOLE

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

MR. JOHN M. McCARTY AND GENERAL A. T. MASON.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA....SEPTEMBER....1818.

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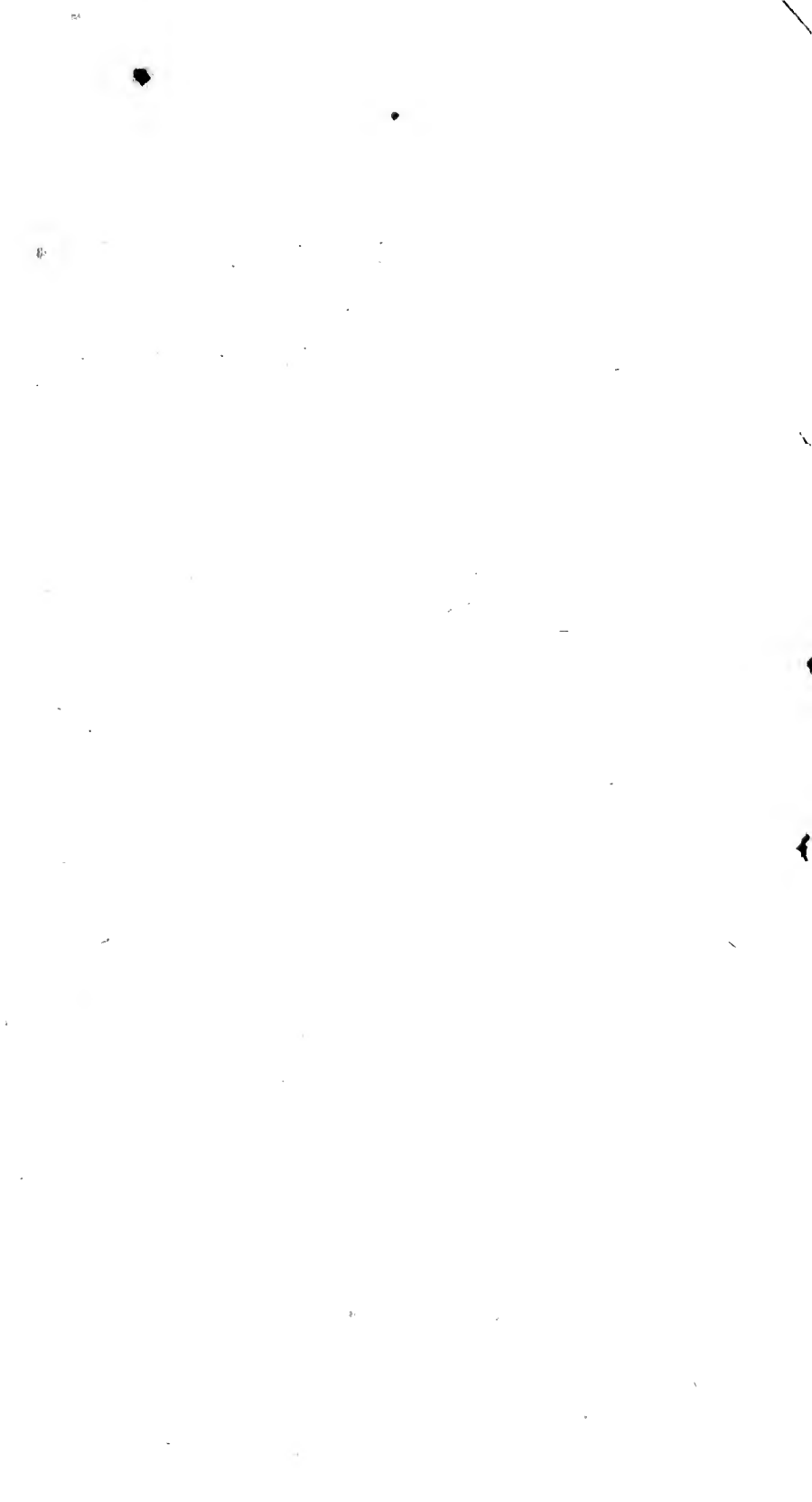
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TO THE PUBLIC.

In April 1817, at the Loudoun election, my quarrel with Gen. Mason first commenced. In requiring my oath (on that occasion) with regard to my qualifications as a voter, he acted not only in compliance with the usages of the country, but in conformity to a constitutional right....and consequently I had no inclination to complain of the *act itself*; nor should I have noticed *his conduct*, had it proceeded from a *mild and amiable man*. But being well aware of his *bullying and dictatorial character*, and conceiving it possible that he might have some design other than that of *fairly and honestly* invalidating my vote, I instantly applied to him such epithets and such language as at once placed me on the defensive, and induced *every* man present to believe that I should be challenged. Instead of calling on me, however, as was expected, he, to the astonishment of all, expressed himself satisfied with his *childish retorts*, and the subject lay dormant many months. Mortified, at length, by *public "impressions,"* he seemed determined to wrest his character from its merited contempt....and (as the following pages will show) *he twice renewed the controversy, and as often sustained discomfiture*. To have reduced my antagonist to a *level* to which no gentleman can ever *descend* without degradation, is, I confess, a pleasing reflection.—But I should not impose upon the public a history of our several controversies, nor should I have made illustrative notes, but that the publications of *one contest* have been formerly comprised in a pamphlet and *sold* at the office of the Genius of Liberty. Whether the *perquisites* are taken by Gen. Mason as a *reward for his chaste compositions*—whether they are *applied* to the *payment of materials* and other *expenses* incurred by the publication—or whether they are *intended* as a “sop in the pan” for *his annotator*, I shall not pretend to say.

JOHN M. M'CARTY.

September 30, 1818.



CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

[No. 1.]

SELMA, 8th Nov. 1817.

SIR,

You will no doubt be surprised at this address; I will briefly explain the cause of it: the altercation which occurred between us at the hustings in Loudoun last spring, has, in order to injure my character, been basely misrepresented by Heiskell, the editor of the Winchester Gazette a fellow who knows that he can calumniate with impunity, since like a certain animal he is protected by the atmosphere which his own filth throws around him. M'Intyre, with whose name I would not soil this sheet, but that it already contains Heiskell's, joins of course in the cry. It is to correct that misrepresentation that I now address you; I could correct it by appealing to others, but I make the appeal to you because your character is as much involved as mine: your name has been used to sanction a falsehood; and notwithstanding the harsh and injurious language which we directed against each other on the occasion just mentioned, I cannot believe that you will permit your name to be employed to subserve the purposes of falsehood and defamation. It is attempted to produce the impression that I shrunk from the contest with you; your name is mentioned to strengthen this statement. You well know that any such statement is utterly false. I never shrunk from a contest with any man, unless he was such a despicable wretch as the editor of the Winchester Gazette, with whom any contact would be contamination. I have greatly mistaken your character if you do not contradict the impression which that slanderous villain has attempted to create, or enable me to do it on your authority.

Your obedient servant,

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

P. S. Not knowing whether you are in Alexandria or Williamsburg, I have directed a letter to each place.

Mr. John M^cCarty.

[No. 2.]

WILLIAMSBURG, November 13th, 1817.

SIR,

Yours of the 8th inst. has this moment reached me. *A duty to myself*, urges the unequivocal declaration, that I never did enlist

the scurrility or sanction the calumny of any printer or printer's devil against General Mason, or any other man.*

Your obedient servant,

J. M. M'CARTY.

P. S. If General Mason feels disposed to publish the above, he has my approbation.

General A. T. Mason.

[No. 3.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

I publish the subjoined letter,† with this brief remark, that every man who, directly or indirectly, avowedly or tacitly,‡ lends his name, or gives his countenance, in any manner or form, to the insinuation, which some scoundrels have propagated, that I shrunk from the contest with Mr. John M'Carty at the last Loudoun election, or who would, in any way, attempt to produce that impression, is a vile calumniator.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

November 29th, 1817.

[No. 4.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

Seeing that Gen. Mason has published my letter unaccompanied by his own, "I publish the subjoined letters,"|| being all the communications that ever transpired between Gen. Mason and myself, "with this brief remark, that every man" may distinctly understand why I wrote to Gen. Mason, to what part of his letter I replied, and to what part I did not reply.—This is my valedictory to the public on the subject.

JOHN M. M'CARTY.

Williamsburg, Dec. 13, 1817.

* If I had alluded to the calumny of which he complains, I surely should not have said that I never sanctioned *that calumny* against "any other man:" for what had "any other man" to do with it? The politeness of his letter, added to its complimentary style, entitled it to some answer, but I could not in truth contradict the "impression" promulgated by Messrs. M'Intyre and Beiskell, although it is well known I had no agency in their remarks. My letter contained all that I could give him, and I gave him permission to publish it, without the most distant idea that he would deem it satisfactory, or that it would ever appear in print.

† Letter No. 2.

J. M. M'C.

‡ His comment on the publication of my letter shews that he was not insensible to its *real meaning*.

J. M. M'C.

|| Letters No. 1 and 2.

[No 5.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE publication of my letter to Mr. John M'Carty was entirely unnecessary, and it was therefore that I did not publish it. But I care nothing about it. His to me, he expressly authorised me to publish, or I most certainly would not have published it.

In mine I stated that a base calumny had been propagated against me, and that his name had been used to give currency and strength to it. It was the use made of his name that induced me to notice the calumny at all. And I applied to him to say that he did not authorize his name to be used to sanction that calumny, and thus "to contradict the impression" which the propagators of it were endeavoring to produce by the use of his name, "or to enable me to do it upon his authority." He expressly declares that "he never did sanction the calumny of any printer against me." This was a direct answer to my application. It was all I asked of him.

If, however, I have misunderstood him, or there is any part of my letter to which he designedly failed to reply, and he means any thing by that failure, it will be time enough, when he shall explain his meaning, if he has any, for me to reply to it.* But he most certainly does not mean to intimate that I shrunk from a contest with him on the occasion alluded to; because such an intimation would be notoriously inconsistent with truth, as an hundred living witnesses can testify. And Mr. John M'Carty himself also well knows, that any such intimation, made in any way, by any man, is infamously false and dishonorable; and for that reason he surely never meant to make it; or to lend it the sanction of his name when made by men who are destitute of honor and regardless of truth.

The construction which (with characteristic impudence and turpitude) has been put upon his "valedictory" in the Washingtonian, as well as the wilful misrepresentation, in that paper, of what passed between us at the hustings, comes from a source which puts the seal of infamy upon it, and admonishes me that it would be degrading to any gentleman to notice it. I shall therefore treat it, as I do every thing which comes from that source, with sovereign contempt.

In conclusion, I can only repeat, on this subject, what I have already said, "that every man who, directly or indirectly, avowedly or tacitly, lends his name, or gives his countenance, in any manner or form, to the insinuation which some scoundrels have propagated, that I shrunk from the contest with Mr. John M'Car-

* This threat, made by a man who had always been believed a duellist in principle, may be regarded as a substantial pledge to challenge, and not as a pledge "to reply to it" by fish-woman abuse.

ly at the last Loudoun election, or who would, in any way, attempt to produce that impression, is a vile calumniator."

It is not difficult to perceive the drift of the despicable and cold blooded assassins, whose folly and wickedness were the cause of the open rupture between Mr. Mercer and myself. Having failed in their object on that occasion, they are now with truly demoniac spirit, seeking to involve me with somebody else, in the hope that my life may fall a sacrifice. This would be a glorious triumph for them. It would suit the base envy and malignity of their souls. And I can, in brief, assure these wretches, once for all, that it is the only triumph of that kind they have any chance of obtaining over me, even if they should be able to find a man, with the reputation of a gentleman, depraved enough to become the willing instrument of their hellish purpose.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

Selma, 23d December, 1817.

[No. 6.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

The publication of General Mason of the 23d December, imposes upon me the unpleasant task of speaking of myself in a newspaper; therefore I pray the indulgence of the public. I had thought that my answer to General Mason, connected with the explanation I had given of it, left no doubt of my *meaning*. I equally despise the bully or the boaster, and I have a contempt for a "war of words." It certainly was the expectation of others, as well as myself, that General Mason would have called on me for honorable reparation, for the language I used to him at the Loudoun election. My respect for the public feeling makes it my duty to say that I never sought a quarrel with any man. I shall not notice the foul and contemptible trash which his internal strife has thrown before the public.*

JOHN M. M'CARTY.

Brown's Hotel, Alexandria, Dis. of Col. Jan. 21, 1818.

[No. 7.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

It can now no longer be doubted that the infamous calumnies

* At this stage of the controversy, Messrs. Ludwell Lee and George Graham, offered their friendly mediation "to effectuate, if possible, that return of mutual harmony so desirable." He accepted the mediation, and thus endeavoured to be placed on a *friendly footing* with me, and that too at the very time his publication was in the press pronouncing me an "hired assassin," a "desperado," &c. &c.

J. M. M'C.

which have been published against me, under the sanction of Mr. John M'Carty's name, have been connived at, if not secretly encouraged by him. It were superfluous to add, that by the very act of avowing his acquiescence in those calumnies, he has rendered himself obnoxious to all that I have said, and repeated, of every man who was so base and unprincipled as in any way to participate in them. But as he appears to be a little dull of apprehension on this subject, no doubt for the reason given in the proverb, that "there are none so blind as those who will not see," I shall be more explicit with him in the progress of this address.

In his recent publication, which is dictated by the most dishonorable and dastardly motives, and which is false and base from beginning to end, he says, "it certainly was expected by others, as well as himself, that I would have called on him for honorable reparation for the language he used to me at the London election." I give him all the credit he can claim for having acted like an accomplished blackguard and bully on that occasion. But he seems to have forgotten the chastisement he received on the spot, and the only one which such a fellow deserved. He seems to have forgotten that for his impertinence, I, in the presence of a crowded court-house, pronounced him to be *an impertinent scoundrel*: And that for his indecent and abusive language, and for taking an oath,* which alone ought to dishonor him forever, I, in the presence of the same audience, consisting of more than a hundred persons, publicly pronounced him to be *an infamous rascal, a perjured villain, &c.*† And after all that, he now says he expected me to call on him for honorable reparation for the language used on that occasion. If he in reality indulged such an expectation, of which however I do not believe one word, he must have strange ideas of what honor requires; he must be a stranger to the principle, and this indeed is the best apology that can be offered for his recent most dishonorable conduct.

At the time of the quarrel between Mr. John M'Carty and myself, I was an unmarried man, and before I left the hustings, and after I came down, I announced without reserve, and to the Rev. John Mines, among others, that I did not feel myself aggrieved by what had passed, as I had fully balanced the account with Mr. John M'Carty, and that I should not prosecute the quarrel farther: but that if Mr. John M'Carty thought to acquire a reputation at my expense, by challenging me, I would disappoint him, for I would most certainly fight him, provided he challenged me while I remained single; observing at the same time to Mr. Mines,

* He had previous to this contested my vote in congress, before the committee of elections, who unanimously decided that it was as pure as any on the poll.
J. M. M'C.

† This language was never heard of until it appeared in the *Genius of Liberty*. what he really said on that occasion was only a puerile retort.
J. M. M'C.

that a single man might, but that a married man ought not to fight a duel. This determination on my part was publicly known, and I have no doubt that Mr. John M'Carty himself was well apprized of it; and that it had no little influence upon his conduct on that occasion, and upon his subsequent conduct.

That he came from Alexandria, his place of residence, predetermined to provoke a quarrel with me, under the expectation of recommending himself by it to the notice and favor of the Federal party, I have now no doubt. But after having gone that far, he thought it prudent to halt, discovering, to borrow a simile from one of his friends, that he "had got the wrong sow by the ear." Finding that he could not, by fair means, acquire the reputation he had sought at my expense, he lends his name to the basest misrepresentation of our quarrel, by which it was attempted to produce the impression that I had shrunk from him in that quarrel. What would have been the conduct of any truly honourable man upon seeing his name employed by unprincipled scoundrels to subserve the purposes of faction, of falsehood and defamation? He would at once, promptly and voluntarily, have forbidden his name to be thus employed. What was the conduct of Mr. John M'Carty? He silently acquiesced in the use made of his name. And why? because he thought in that way to acquire the reputation which he had been disappointed in obtaining at the hustings. A man who can thus, like a thief, attempt to steal a reputation, must indeed want one, and he must moreover feel that he cannot acquire one in an honest and manly way. Observing his apparent acquiescence, I wrote to him to know whether he sanctioned the calumnies which his name had been employed to strengthen. He replied most distinctly and "*unequivocally*," to use his own expression, that "he never did sanction the calumny of any printer against me;" and he authorized me to publish his letter. I did so. What then is his conduct? Regardless of the solemn obligations of private confidence, which are held sacred and inviolable by all honorable men, he without my consent or knowledge, treacherously publishes my letter, and involves me in a vexatious lawsuit with a dirty fellow, for whom I suppose he is also to be a good witness. He moreover accompanied the publication of my letter with some remarks of his own, in which he endeavors to explain away the obvious meaning of his answer, hoping by the ambiguity of his remarks to support the attempt already made to produce the impression on the minds of those who were unacquainted with the case, that I had really shrunk from him on the occasion alluded to. It then became my duty again to denounce in most unequivocal terms every man who in any way would attempt to create that impression, and to point them more directly at Mr. John M'Carty, provided he had participated in that attempt. Those terms however could not apply, nor were they intended to apply to him, unless he had participated in that attempt. His having taken them to himself proves his guilt. And stung by the language which his own vanity and folly had brought upon him, he sets

but from Williamsburg, two hundred miles distant, to seek revenge for what he so justly merited. He had already declared that he had published his "valedictory." And if after that he pretended to be aggrieved, what was left for him? Let men of true courage and really honorable feelings and principles answer. But the length of the journey and some sober reflections on the way, and I must be permitted to add, a knowledge of the man with whom he had to deal, tempered his rage, and by the time he reached Alexandria he concluded it was most prudent (and prudence is the better part of valor) to try another silly valedictory, and to present himself in Leesburg, as if panting for battle, at a time when he well knew that my oath of office and other imperious circumstances would prevent me from taking any other notice of him than this: which is indeed the only notice that under any circumstances, I ought to take of him. Yet this man (if you believe him) "despises the bully and the boaster."

In his second "valedictory" he does not say, but insinuates, as if afraid of the assertion, that I shrunk from him in the contest at the Loudoun election. The insinuation is false, infamously false, as Mr. John M'Carty who makes it, well knows; and I am not casuist enough to distinguish any moral difference between a false insinuation and a false assertion. The man who can for any purpose or under any influence, descend to either, is a *liar*. The former, however, is the more despicable crime of the two, if there be any difference, because it betrays a sneaking, cowardly disposition to do in an underhand, clandestine manner what it is afraid to do openly and in the face of day.

It is due to candor, however, on this occasion, to state my conviction that if Mr. John M'Carty had been left to himself, his whole conduct would have been different. I have already said, and I repeat that I have no doubt he came from Alexandria predetermined to provoke a quarrel with me. But I am also convinced that he was incited and encouraged to do so by a set of scoundrels, who, feeling the inclination, wanted the courage to do it themselves. I am equally well convinced that he intended his answer to my letter as a full and satisfactory one; that he meant to withhold nothing, nor to insinuate any thing against me; and that although he had been willing to acquire a little reputation, in an underhand and clandestine way, by an acquiescence in the calumnies which had been published under the sanction of his name, yet when he was awakened to the impropriety, and perhaps the danger of such a course, he gave the explanation asked.

But it so happened that just about the time that I received and published his answer, Mr. Mercer, who had until then been relied upon as the champion of his party, gave way. And the men who had been pricking him on, mortified and chagrined at the disgrace which he has brought upon them, and their party, eagerly caught at the opportunity of widening the breach between Mr. John M'Carty and myself, in the hope that he would wipe

off the dishonor of the cowardly conduct of Mr. Mercer, who after all his vaporings, had so woefully disappointed the high expectations which had been indulged of him, and *which his whole conduct had been calculated and designed to excite*. Flushed with this hope, they doubtless did not fail to ply Mr. John M'Carty well; and he, from laxity of principle and excessive vanity and folly, readily gave into the plot, and surrendering himself into their hands, became their dupe and instrument.—and he is now pitted as the *shake-bag* of the party. It cannot be denied that they have made a very judicious selection, for he is of no importance to society, and happen what may, he will not be missed by any man or set of men; and he is as likely to accomplish their object (if his nerves do not fail him) as any other desperado that they could pick up. But it is impossible to reconcile such conduct with the principles of honor; and however Mr. John M'Carty may flatter himself with the favor of the federalists for the service expected from him, he may rest assured that the honorable men of all parties, and the impartial men of all the world, will never regard him as any thing better than an hired assassin. “As we love the treason, while we hate the traitor,” so those who might rejoice at the act which he is incited to commit, would detest him for the commission of it; and even the conspirators against my life, who are using him to execute their designs, would laugh at his folly, and as far as their hearts are capable of it, despise his depravity if the deed was done.

I cannot help feeling greatly humbled to find myself compelled to treat, *in any respect*, as an equal, a man who has permitted himself to be used as the *vile instrument* of the basest and meanest of men. It must be acknowledged by all men of all parties, that there is no one point of comparison between Mr. John M'Carty and myself. And I might without censure, in conformity with the earnest entreaties of my friends, at once assert the inequality and disclaim all further contention with him. And, but that when entirely ignorant of his real character, and estimating him as a man of honor and truth, I admitted him to the rank of a gentleman, I would now class him, as he deserves to be classed, with M'Intyre and Heiskell, with whom he has associated himself, and leave him there. I have however taken different ground, and having taken it, I will not desert it. I have agreed to regard him as an equal in *one* respect, and I now disdain to take any exceptions to his character, no matter with how much justice and propriety I might take them. All I aim at now is to satisfy the world that I am not the aggressor in this affair,* and that I am acting only in self-defence: of that I am well satisfied myself, and with that conviction I can meet any consequences, be they what they may, without fear of self-reproach.

* He says he is not the “aggressor in this affair.” He must consequently, then, be the *aggrieved man*; and he therefore never could have expected a challenge from me. J. M. M'C.

As Mr. John M·Carty professes “a contempt for a war of words,” I shall expect to hear no more from him *in that way*... particularly as it is “an unpleasant task for him to speak of himself.” And that this should be an unpleasant task to a man of his character, I am not at all surprised, if he means to speak the truth. But we have abundant evidence that Mr. John M·Carty could surmount that difficulty...and we should doubtless have a third valedictory “from him, if it was not for his contempt for a war of words,” and his great preference for a war of *a different kind*, which he has so satisfactorily demonstrated—*by his insinuations*.

I should do great injustice to my feelings, were I to conclude this address without expressing my deep regret in being thus compelled to publish my opinion of Mr. John M·Carty. For his brothers and all his family I have ever cherished the feelings of a friend and relative; and the necessity imposed on me of using language that cannot be otherwise than painful to them, is extremely painful to me. But whatever may be the final result of this controversy, I most sincerely hope that it will not be permitted to affect the amicable relations which have hitherto subsisted between us and our families.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

Selma, January 31st, 1818.

[No. 8.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

I cannot condescend to reply, *in detail*, to the publication of a man, whose late *pusillanimous* conduct has sunk him *beneath* the scorn and pity of mankind. I refer the public, however, to the altercation at the hustings—to the correspondence—and to the publications that have passed between General Mason and myself—and leave that public to decide, whether, if he had possessed the feelings and principles of a gentleman, he would not rather have demanded of me honorable reparation for *injuries so deeply* affecting his *honor* as to have given rise to his late publication, than to have sought redress by vulgar misrepresentation. General Mason’s refusing to call on me for the indignity I offered him at the hustings, and also for the insults contained in my several communications to the public (the last of which was particularly calculated and intended to close a “war of words,” and to draw that challenge from *him*, which he had in a previous publication substantially pledged himself to send), leaves no other conclusion than that **GENERAL ARMISTEAD T. MASON IS A DIS-GRACED COWARD.**

JOHN M. M·CARTY.

Mrs. Peyton’s Boarding-house, Alexandria, }
Dist. Col. February 16, 1818. }

TO THE PUBLIC.

It is certainly not my duty to fight every blackguard who is employed by my political enemies to abuse me ; and much less can it be my duty to *challenge* any blackguard whatever, under any circumstances.

In announcing as I have *repeatedly* done, most distinctly, that I would accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, *blackguard and scoundrel as he is*, and fight him if he challenged me, I think I have done enough. And even in doing that, I have incurred the severe censure of my friends, who from various parts of the country have insisted that I should treat him and every such man with silent contempt. I am sure no honorable man would have me to do more than I have done with such a despicable wretch. Was he a gentleman, or was any thing that he can say, after such evidence of the most abandoned depravity and the most shameless disregard of character, entitled to the least respect, the case would be different—and I would most certainly challenge him for the last publication to which he has affixed his name, although it is evidently not written by himself. Of his preceding publications, which had his stamp upon them, I took the only notice that I could have taken of them, even had they proceeded from a respectable source. The assertion that I ever pledged myself to *challenge* him, or *any such man*, is so notoriously false as to be unworthy of contradiction.

Under the belief that Mr. John M'Carty, however depraved in his principles, was a man of courage, and that (whether he was a man of courage or not) he had so committed himself, by his foolish and ridiculous bravadoes, that he would be compelled to challenge me after my last publication, which he had most wantonly provoked, and in which I had exhausted every epithet of opprobrium of which I was capable, because he deserved them, I sent my commission as a brigadier-general to the governor of the state, and tendered my resignation of it, so as to clear the way for this mighty Hector. I also made other arrangements, and suspended most important pecuniary negotiations in order to meet and fight him if he challenged me.

It is true, I had never known a bully who was not a coward ; but I had thought Mr. John M'Carty, *from a particular cause*, was an exception to the rule. I however had entirely mistaken the man. *Half-witted as he is*, on *one subject* he is perfectly sane, and he cannot be made for a moment to forget that

“ He who fights and runs away,
 “ May live to fight another day ;
 “ But he who is in battle slain,
 “ Will never live to fight again.”

And although he is always ready to box, bite and gouge with any blackguard in the street, *he shrinks* instinctively from honorable

combat. To his nocturnal orgies in the alleys of Alexandria let him then return, and seek there, among his compeers, that fame which he has not the courage to acquire elsewhere. In the ring he may rival Crib and Mollineux, where muscle supplies the place of nerve, but whenever he moves out of that, his proper sphere, he will, as he has now done, disgrace himself, if such a *coward scoundrel* can be disgraced.

To shew Mr. John M'Carty's real opinion of my conduct at the hustings, and the falsehood of his assertion that he expected me to call on him for what passed on that occasion, I state the fact, that I have in my possession a letter from a respectable gentleman (which may be seen by any person who wishes to see it) informing me that on the very day of the Loudon election, he expressly told Mr. John M'Carty that he had heard the conversation between Mr. Mines and myself, mentioned in my last, and that it was my determination not to challenge him. And further that Mr. John M'Carty did in his presence, and to him, on the same day, and after the affair in which he now pretends to say that I disgraced myself, expressly declare me to be "brave and honorable." With all these facts before them, who can pretend to doubt the peerless veracity or the chivalrous spirit of Mr. John M'Carty? But I disdain further to comment upon such conduct.

One word more and I dismiss this subject. I have already stated that my business has been much interrupted by the expectation that Mr. John M'Carty would be incited to challenge me, and by my invariable and well known determination to fight him, if he did: *but which he never dared to do.* His real character has now fully developed itself, for it is now most evident that he has been afraid to do it; and that *his own conviction* that I should not, and that I would not *challenge such a fellow as he is*, has made him *insolent*.

Again to repeat what I have so often published, that I would accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty and fight him, might now, when it is clearly ascertained that he cannot, by friends or foes, be *goaded* into a fight, be considered as a mere bravado; and that reason only restrains me from doing it. But as those who have had him in hand have failed in all their efforts to bring him to the mark, and as there can be no hope that any new nostrum will be found to overcome his natural and incurable *bashfulness*, I will at once give them notice, that by his declining to avail himself of the pledge I gave to fight him if he challenged me, and by the *unprecedented and really ludicrous* turn he has taken, I consider myself absolved entirely from that pledge. And I give them further notice, that they have lost their last chance of sacrificing my life by the instrumentality of a political myrmidon, for I never will again consent to put my life in competition with that of such a worthless fellow as Mr. John M'Carty.

To his cowardice I owe the peace and happiness of my wife.

and family, but on a similar occasion I might be brought in contact with a man of courage, for every unprincipled scoundrel is not a coward.

I do not hesitate to acknowledge that I felicitate myself upon thus terminating this affair; for although I would have fought Mr. John M'Carty, as I had pledged myself to do it, if he had challenged me, yet I certainly preferred to avoid a conflict with him, as by any conflict with a man of his character I had every thing to lose and nothing to gain.

I shall now resume the prosecution of my business, in the hope that those who have made such violent, but unavailing efforts to urge on their *boasted and boastful champion*, having seen him falter, and *shrink* from the work he had undertaken to do, will now, in mortification and despair, if no better principle can actuate their bosoms, abandon their designs against my life and leave me in peace.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

10th Feb. 1818.

[Here terminated the first paper controversy. The second was commenced by Gen. Mason on the 11th May, by his addressing an insolent letter to Dr. Tebbs.]

[No. 1.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

During the period of my electioneering excursion through Loudoun, and since the termination of my last controversy with Gen. A. T. Mason, the *Genius of Liberty*, a paper under his immediate patronage, has been frequently crowded with the bitterest invectives against me; but they appeared in such a *form* that I could make no inquiries concerning them—A few days, however, after my election as a member to the House of Delegates, a piece appeared in the same paper, signed "*Juriscola*," the author of which, from its general character of falsehood and scurrility, I demanded of the Editor, and shall make no other apology for not chastising him, than to inform the people of Loudoun that this *suborned agent* was Wm. H. Handy!!! Shortly after Mr. Handy was given up as the author of "*Juriscola*," I was informed that Mr. Handy had some days before obtained a pair of duelling pistols from George M. Chichester, Esq. This intelligence was succeeded by some communications between Mr. Chichester and myself; and the negotiation resulted in a manner highly honorable to that gentleman; but while the negotiation was pending between us, the annexed letter was addressed to Dr. Tebbs:

SIR,

LEESEURG, MAY 11th, 1818.

I understand you have been the bearer of a note from Mr. John M'Carty to George Mason Chichester, demanding of him an explanation of his conduct in lending my pistols to Mr. Handy. The note, as might be expected from the character of its author, was such as not to entitle it to the respect of an answer—and accordingly it has not received one. I will,

however, inform you that Mr. Chichester had no agency in the business, except to deliver the pistols, at my written request, to Mr. Mandley Rust. It is true that I did not know or even suspect that they were for Mr. Handy; but that is of no consequence—for if I had known all the circumstances, I would have lent them to Mr. Handy. The principal object of this note is to inform you that I am responsible for the loan of those pistols.

I am apprized that Mr. John M'Carty, like a coward and scoundrel as he is, has come from Alexandria on a bullying expedition. Not satisfied with the contempt and derision to which his recent conduct has exposed him, he seems determined to sink himself still further, if possible, into the depths of infamy. The profligacy and pusillanimity of his character are so fully exemplified, as to forbid me to expect any thing honorable of him. But I wish him to know, by the perusal of this letter, that I do not, in imitation of the example of Mr. Mercer, wish any of my friends to fight my battles for me, even if any of them would permit themselves to be "instigated" to do it. And I repeat, that I am responsible for the loan of those pistols, of which he pretends to complain.

I am, sir, your friend and obed't serv't.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

I was requested by General A. T. Mason to show a letter of which is a true copy, to Mr. M'Carty, which was done.

THOS. F. TEBBS.

I do certify, that in a conversation which took place between General A. T. Mason and myself, he stated that he would not receive any communication, either directly or indirectly, from Mr. John M'Carty, unless it was a direct challenge; and then he would accept, after he had made the proper preparation. This conversation took place on the afternoon of the 11th May, 1818, in consequence of a letter addressed to George M. Chichester, Esq. by Mr. John M'Carty, relative to the loan of a pair of duelling pistols.

THOS. F. TEBBS.

As I had been compelled on a former occasion to publish Gen. Mason as a "disgraced coward," I should now have treated him with scorn, but that I regarded his solemn and voluntary pledges to Dr. Tebbs to accept a "a direct challenge" from me, as a desperate effort to retrieve his lost reputation, and to be avenged for the treatment of derision I bestowed upon his faithful squire, Wm. H. Handy—I considered also his insulting interference between Mr. Chichester and myself, as the result of a conflict between cowardice and pride, in which the latter had triumphed, and I ascribed to him *some merit* while I believed he had gained an ascendancy over the most *prominent*, but not the *basest* feature of his character. Under this conviction I sent him the subjoined note.

SIR,

MAY 15, 1818.

Wishing to meet you upon equal and honorable terms, I invite you to fight me at the distance of three feet. Your obed't serv't,

My friend, Mr. Dulany, will hand you this.

J. M. M'CARTY

General A. T. Mason.

But notwithstanding his valorous attempt to regain his laurels, "his nerves failed him" at the critical moment, and his cowardice "instigated" him to reject a "direct challenge."—And why did

he not accept it? Simply because its acceptance would have involved him in an "equal and honorable" combat. But he observed to my friend, Mr. Dulany, that he would accept a challenge of the usual kind.—In other words, *he could not fight three feet*, but would choose a distance which would shield him from danger. Although the public course of this man has been characterised by an *imbecility* not usual in Virginia statesmen; yet the state seems still desirous to foster him as a kind of *pet*. It can be for no other reason than his *coloscean* exertions to democratize the district in which he lives; and when (in our last contest) he *affected* to expect a challenge from me and "tendered" the resignation of his commission, it was the opinion of many intelligent members of the Legislature, that the duelling law would *certainly* have been repealed as it respected him, if his situation had rendered it necessary. With this preponderance of *state favour* in his behalf, what, I will ask, would be my fate if I were to fight an ordinary duel with Gen. Mason, and survive him? If I did not voluntarily surrender myself to the officers of justice, I should by them be hunted down, dragged to a loathsome jail, loaded with manacles and foot-chains, and finally doomed to die upon a gallows. In an "equal and honorable" combat, I would have resigned my life without a sigh, but I will avoid the *ignominy* of a public execution. I again proclaim Gen. Armistead T. Mason a "Disgraced Coward;" and at the same time that I throw him upon the *mercy* of the world, I can assure him that he may *now vaunt* and *bluster* with *impunity*, for I shall *never again* mistake his *malignity* for *valor*. If, however, he should have the *hardihood* to attempt a vindication of his character, and should circulate falsehoods worth replying to, I may probably answer them. Perhaps he may entrench himself behind *etiquette*. It is possible I may have violated *etiquette*; but the man who would *voluntarily* come forward and *elicit* a duel, and then *shrink* from it because the terms proposed were "equal and honorable," will find *etiquette* but a *feeble bulwark* to secure him from the imputation of *cowardice*.

JOHN M. M'CARTY.

London, May 21st, 1818.

[No. 2.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

The piece which issued on Saturday last, from the *Genius of Liberty*, is intended to give a *false* idea of the late communications between Gen. Mason and myself. It is true I did say I would challenge Mr. Chichester if he loaned those pistols to Mr. Handy for the *purpose of being employed against me*; and I also said that I would challenge Gen. Mason if he had loaned them

For the same purpose, *but for our last publication*. Any other statement than this has resulted either from a misapprehension of my language, or a *villanous design to calumniate me*. But for the letter to Dr. Tebbs, I should not have challenged him; for *he had previously declared he would never fight me*. A few weeks, however, after this declaration, he said he would fight, and invited me, through Dr. Tebbs, to challenge him: I did so, and he rejected the challenge. His editor now states that he will now fight me. Here are four statements clashing with each other, and the last is made after he knew I would receive no communication from him, either "directly or indirectly," and after I had published him. I gave him permission, in my last publication, to *vaunt and bluster with impunity*, and I see he has indulged in his favorite propensity. I would advise him to publish a weekly account of his *sanguinary* as well as his *pacific* determinations. The piece under consideration would induce the belief that I have received communications from Gen. Mason subsequent to his interview with Mr. Dulany. This is positively *false*; for as Gen. Mason had (through Dr. Tebbs) interdicted all communications, either "directly or indirectly," from me, except a "direct challenge," I determined to receive from him no communication, "directly or indirectly," but his promise to accept my challenge, when he had made the proper preparation, or a rejection of it. On the evening of the day that the challenge was delivered, I received notice of its rejection, and on the next day, the 18th of May, Mr. Dulany, (in compliance with a promise he had made Mr. Rust, and in answer to that gentleman's request that I would *modify* the challenge) informed him that, inasmuch as Gen. Mason had rejected my challenge, I would receive from him no communication, "directly or indirectly." This letter, owing to the badness of the weather, Mr. Rust did not receive until Tuesday, 19th of May. On the 21st, my publication was sent to the press, *and after this*, Mr. Rust sought an interview with me, in which he distinctly acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Dulany's letter, and he was again told by me I would respect nothing that came from Gen. Mason, and that I should act on his rejection of the challenge. After this, whatever Mr. Rust chose to say in my presence, he could not, as a gentleman, consider as a communication from Gen. Mason; and therefore I presume that the statement made in the publication of the 23d, was not founded on his authority. I "rejected no proposition" from Gen. Mason, for it was *well known* I would receive none, and Mr. Rust had some days before received Mr. Dulany's letter to that effect, and consequently must have anticipated the result of the interview.

Gen. Mason can now be *desperate*.—Why was he not so when the challenge was presented? He had then a fair opportunity to show his "nerve;" but he rejected the challenge and has lately been *boasting* in a way well calculated to enlist in his

cause the civil authority. But this man would never infract the peace, even were I disposed to notice his *bravadoes*. He invited me to challenge him: I accepted the invitation.—He is disgraced, and I am satisfied.

The following statement will stifle all *conjectures* relative to the result of the conference between Gen. Mason and Mr. Dulany.

JOHN M. M-CARTY.

Loudoun, May 25th, 1818.

I have no hesitation in stating that when I met General Mason at Major Mains's, I did, after one or two commonplace remarks, present Gen. Mason Mr. M-Carty's communication, which was read by the General and rejected. In justice to the parties I further state, that Mason, after having refused the challenge, observed that he would fight M-Carty, if M-Carty would challenge him in the usual way. He moreover stated that he had reasons for not accepting the communication, which he would suppress in consideration of my feelings.

JAS. H. DULANY.

May 25, 1818.

[No. 3.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

I had hoped, most sincerely hoped, that I was done with newspaper controversies. Indeed, nothing but the most extraordinary circumstances could force me again to appear before the public in that way. But it is my fate to have been involved in a quarrel with a man, who without an endowment, intellectual or moral, to rescue him from the contempt of mankind, and with manners as brutal as his mind and morals are debased, is nevertheless countenanced and encouraged, from motives of political animosity against me, by a set of men in this county, some of whom are deemed respectable, and who may be so, if men who are capable of such conduct, from such motives, can be respectable.

Notwithstanding the strong circumstances which impel me to it, I now make this last appeal to the public with extreme reluctance, for I know the public must be tired, and I am disgusted with such appeals. But that I have laboured hard to avoid the necessity of it, will, I trust, most satisfactorily appear in the sequel of the following narrative.

On Monday, the 11th of this month, I was informed by a friend that Mr. John M-Carty had threatened to challenge Mr. Geo. Mason Chichester, for lending my pistols to Mr. Wm. H. Handy. Indignant at such profligate and outrageous conduct, understanding perfectly the motives of it, knowing that Mr. Chichester had no agency in lending the pistols, other than to deliver them to my written order, and, above all, determined that no man should be made to answer for an act of mine, I instantly resolved to find

Dr. Tebbs, who had been the bearer of Mr. M'Carty's note to Mr. Chichester, and to inform him that I had lent the pistols, and was responsible for the act. And that rather than a friend should suffer for an act of mine, I would, notwithstanding the degradation of Mr. John M'Carty, once more agree to descend to his level, resign my commission and fight him, if he challenged me for that act. Not being able, however, to find Dr. Tebbs, I addressed to him this letter :

To Dr. THOMAS TEBBS:

SIR,

LEESBURG, MAY 11th, 1848.

I understand you have been the bearer of a note from Mr. John M'Carty to George Mason Chichester, demanding of him an explanation of his conduct in lending my pistols to Mr. Handy. The note, as might be expected from the character of its author, was such as not to entitle it to the respect of an answer—and accordingly it has not received one. I will, however, inform you that Mr. Chichester had no agency in the business, except to deliver the pistols, at my written request, to Mr. Mandley Rust. It is true that I did not know or even suspect that they were for Mr. Handy: but that is of no consequence—for if I had known all the circumstances, I would have lent them to Mr. Handy. The principal object of this note is to inform you that I am responsible for the loan of those pistols.

I am apprized that Mr. John M'Carty, like a coward and scoundrel as he is, has come from Alexandria on a bullying expedition. Not satisfied with the contempt and derision to which his recent conduct has exposed him, he seems determined to sink himself still further, if possible, into the depths of infamy. The profligacy and pusillanimity of his character are so fully exemplified, as to forbid me to expect any thing honorable of him. But I wish him to know, by the perusal of this letter, that I do not, in imitation of the example of Mr. Mercer, wish any of my friends to fight my battles for me, even if any of them would permit themselves to be "instigated" to do it. And I repeat that I am responsible for the loan of those pistols, of which he pretends to complain.

I am, sir, your friend and obed't serv't,

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

This letter was delivered by my friend, Capt. Stribling, and accompanied by a message to this effect, that I would receive no communication from Mr. John M'Carty, directly or indirectly, except a challenge, and that if he challenged me, I would resign my commission, and fight him. Before I sent the letter I read it to Mr. Tutt, Major Mains, Capt. Stribling, and Mr. John Humphreys. Mr. Tutt informed me that Mr. M'Carty had determined to withdraw his *threat* against Mr. Chichester. Upon hearing that, I would have suppressed the letter, but Mr. Humphreys at the same moment informed me that Mr. M'Carty had also *threatened* to challenge me, if I had lent the pistols. That *threat* against me, again determined me to send the letter, and accept Mr. John M'Carty's *threatened* challenge if it came. The letter was accordingly sent, and shewn to Mr. M'Carty on the same evening. On the next day I returned to Leesburg to await the result. I remained in town all day. The *threatened* challenge came

not. In the evening I called on Dr. Tebbs and Mr. Humphreys, and obtained from them the following certificates :*

I have no hesitation in saying that Mr. John M'Carty declared that he would *challenge* Gen. A. T. Mason, if he had loaned a pair of pistols to Mr. Handy to be used against him. This declaration was made a few days ago in my presence.

THOS. F. TEBBS.

May 12, 1818.

Being called upon by Gen. Mason to know whether Mr. John M'Carty had said (a few days since) that he would *challenge* Mr. G. M. Chichester, Gen. Mason, or any other gentleman who had loaned pistols for the purpose of being used against him, I frankly answer that he did make that declaration to me.

JOHN HUMPHREYS.

Leesburg, May 12, 1818.

Mr. John M'Carty, upon reading my letter to Dr. Tebbs, would very willingly have forgotten his *threat* to challenge me. Accordingly he let *three days* elapse without taking any notice of it. At length, by some means, he heard that Dr. Tebbs and Mr. Humphreys had given me certificates of his *threat to challenge me*. He immediately called on Mr. Humphreys (Dr. Tebbs having left the neighborhood) to know if he and Dr. Tebbs had given such certificates. Mr. Humphreys answered in the affirmative. Alarmed at the situation in which he found himself likely to be placed, he prevaricated, and attempted to deny that he had *threatened to challenge me*. He requested Mr. Humphreys to *try and recollect* that he had excepted me in his threat. Unluckily for Mr. M'Carty, Mr. Humphreys "could try," but he could "*not recollect* any such exception." On the contrary, Mr. Humphreys repeated that he and Dr. Tebbs concurred in saying that he had *expressly threatened to challenge me*, and that they had both given me certificates to that effect.—But for what passed between Mr. Humphreys and Mr. M'Carty on that occasion, I refer the public to Mr. Humphreys' own statement :—

On or about the 10th of this month, Mr. John M'Carty informed me that Mr. William Handy was the author of a publication in the *Genius of Liberty*, signed "Juriscola;" that he could not condescend to notice Mr. Handy; but if Mr. Mason Chichester, Gen. Mason, or any other gentleman, had loaned pistols to Mr. Handy for the purpose of being used against him, he would *challenge* that person. Several days subsequently, Mr. M'Carty called on me to know if Mr. Tebbs and myself had given certificates to that effect. I at once told him we had done so (that of Mr. Tebbs varying in some measure from mine). Mr. M'Carty replied that I had entirely misunderstood him; that he excepted General Mason in his threat, for he could not notice him, as he had published him a coward, and

* At this early period of the contest he acknowledges he was collecting materials for a future publication, but commences his "narrative" by saying "he had hoped, sincerely hoped, that he was done with newspaper controversies, and that he had labored hard to avoid one."

J. M. M'C.

requested I would try and recollect it. My reply was that I had not heard him make the exception of Gen. Mason, and in this opinion I was supported by the certificate of Dr. Tebbs. JOHN HUMPHREYS.

There was now but one course left for Mr. M'Carty. Completely entrapped in his own toils, without the possibility of escape, he had no alternative.—Dreadful as it was, he was *compelled to challenge* to a single combat, the man whom of all others he most feared.—From my heart I acquit him for this act of desperation; for never did a poor devil do an act with more painful reluctance, and with more awful and appalling apprehensions of the consequences, than did Mr. John M'Carty put his trembling hand to an evasive challenge against me. But he could not avoid it.

On the 17th, the challenge was handed to me by Mr. Dulany. *It dictated the terms upon which Mr. M'Carty, the challenger, would agree to fight.* The first time this, I venture to affirm, since the age of chivalry began, that the challenger ever pretended to dictate the terms upon which he would agree to fight. No other evidence is necessary to shew the real character of the man. Upon reading the challenge, I told Mr. Dulany, *most distinctly and repeatedly*, that I would resign my commission, accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, and fight him, but that I would not permit Mr. M'Carty to prescribe the terms of the duel, which he as the challenger had no right to do. My answer to Mr. Dulany will however more satisfactorily appear in the subjoined statements of Mr. Dulany himself, and that of Major Mains and Mr. Rust, who were present:—

I have no hesitation in stating that when I met Gen. Mason at Major Mains's, I did, after one or two commonplace remarks, present Gen. Mason Mr. M'Carty's communication, which was read by the General, and rejected *because of the terms of the challenge being prescribed by Mr. M'Carty.* In justice to the parties I further state, that Gen. Mason, after having refused the challenge, observed that he would fight Mr. M'Carty if he would challenge him in the usual way. He moreover stated that he had reasons for not accepting Mr. M'Carty's communication, which he suppressed in consideration of my feelings. JAS. H. DULANY.

We were present when Mr. James H. Dulany delivered a challenge to Gen. A. T. Mason from Mr. John M'Carty. Gen. Mason upon reading it immediately remarked that it was inadmissible, inasmuch as it prescribed the terms of the duel, a thing wholly unprecedented. He told Mr. Dulany, *expressly and repeatedly*, that he would resign his commission, accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, and fight him; but that he would not permit Mr. M'Carty to prescribe the terms of the duel, as he, being the challenger, had no right to do so. This was in substance Gen. Mason's answer to Mr. Dulany, and he repeated it over and over again *most distinctly.*

GEORGE RUST, JR.
ARCH'D. MAINS.

I further told Mr. Dulany that upon being informed by him that Mr. M'Carty had modified his challenge, I would immediately resign my commission, repair to the District and meet him.

Mr. Dulany promised to let me hear from him the moment he saw Mr. M'Carty. With this promise, he left us.

I objected to Mr. M'Carty's dictation of the terms of the duel, for these obvious reasons; first, because he had no right to dictate them; but principally because I had no security that a man of his character would not fire before the word was given; the agitation of his nerves might make him fire inadvertently; or his dishonorable and profligate principles might 'instigate' him to do it designedly. And it would have been worse than madness and folly to have put my life in the power of a cowardly and unprincipled assassin with no other security than *his honor*. This was the reason which I withheld from Mr. Dulany, in consideration of his feelings; and as soon as Mr. Dulany withdrew, I assigned it to Mr. Rust and Major Mains. I had intended to have prescribed terms which would have been as desperate as Mr. M'Carty would have desired, and which would have precluded the possibility of dishonorable conduct on the field. I mentioned them on the spot to Maj. Mains and Mr. Rust. They were the same as those on which I fought Mr. Samuel Noland a few years since. Each party to have two pistols, stand at fifteen paces distance, and march up, and fire at pleasure. *Mr. M'Carty* might then have approached within three feet, or three inches if he had preferred it. But he preferred not to fight at all, on any terms.

In the contest with Mr. Noland, to which I have just had occasion to allude, I encountered a very different man from Mr. *John M'Carty*. There was then no blustering, no "war of words." Not doubting his own courage, and disdaining the swaggering airs of a tavern bully, Mr. Noland felt himself aggrieved, and challenged me. He neither attempted in his challenge to evade the consequences of it, by sending one which he knew "I was not bound to accept," nor did he shrink from the fight, and shelter himself behind newspaper misrepresentations, when he found his challenge would be accepted. We met and fought. It was my fate to receive both his fires unhurt. By my first he was severely wounded. I discharged my second pistol in the air. Generous as brave, he soon forgave me, and ever since we have been, as I trust we ever shall be, friends.

On the next day after my interview with Mr. Dulany, and before I had heard any thing from him or Mr. *M'Carty*, I addressed the following letter to Mr. Dulany; and by sunrise on Tuesday morning enclosed it to my friend, Mr. Rust, to be forwarded to Mr. Dulany. It was enclosed in the letter which is immediately annexed.

To GEORGE RUST, Jr. Esq.

DEAR RUST,

SELMA, (sunrise) 19th May, 1818.

When you receive the communication which we expect from Mr. James H. Dulany, and which he promised us, if it shall appear that Mr. John M'Carty still persists in the terms prescribed, I'll thank you to send to Mr. Dulany the enclosed letter. You will perceive by it that I have determi-

ded to waive all exceptions to the form of Mr. M'Carty's challenge, and as soon as I can get clear of my commission, to meet him, and to fight out our quarrel on any terms, and be done with it. It would be disgraceful to all parties to prolong it. And I am resolved to terminate it at once, even if I shall have to surrender my rights in order to do it. *Mr. John M'Carty's challenge, if it can be so called, is most evidently nothing but a cowardly stratagem to evade the consequences of a regular challenge, and it shall not avail him.* Yours, most sincerely, ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

To JAMES H. DULANY, Esq.

SIR,

SELMA, 18th MAY, 1818.

If Mr. John M'Carty still persists in adhering to the terms prescribed in his challenge, which however he has no right to do, and which most undeniably give to that challenge the character of a mere effort to evade the consequences of a regular challenge, I have determined, in order to remove all difficulty on the subject, to suspend the exercise of my undoubted right on the occasion, and to waive all objection to the form of that challenge. And I now inform you that as soon as I receive the Governor's acceptance of my commission,† I will accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, and meet and fight him, on terms which he shall acknowledge are in every possible respect perfectly equal, and which he and every body else shall also acknowledge are desperate to the last degree.*

It is unnecessary to add that the most profound secrecy must be preserved in regard to this whole matter. You will communicate the contents of this letter to Mr. John M'Carty, and let me have his answer. Upon the receipt of which, I will immediately send off my commission to the Governor, and make all other necessary arrangements for the ultimate event.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obed't serv't,

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

It is unnecessary to mention the terms which I then meant to propose. They were mentioned on the same morning to two or three gentlemen, and among others to John I. Harding, Esq. and Joshua Osburn, Esq. They were admitted to be equal in every

* Here he says he will "waive all objection to the form of my challenge." But mark the contradiction that immediately follows.

J. M. M'C.

† Observe—he could not accept a challenge (not even one to fight fifteen yards), unless he could "receive the Governor's acceptance of his commission." This he well knew he never could receive, as the Governor had refused to accept it a short time before. But when this condition is complied with, he says, "I will accept a challenge (*not my challenge*), and meet and fight him on terms, &c. (*not my terms*)—for he observes in the "sequel of his narrative": "It is unnecessary for me to mention the terms I then meant to propose; they were mentioned on the same morning to two or three gentlemen, and among others to John I. Harding, Esq. and to Joshua Osburn, Esq." This, I think, was "rending the veil of secrecy" which he in his letter to my friend, Mr. Dulany, was so anxious to preserve "with regard to this whole matter"—and confirms what has already been said of him, "that he had been boasting in a way well calculated to enlist in his cause the civil authority."

J. M. M'C.

possible respect and desperate enough. Indeed I never desired any advantage over Mr. M'Carty in that way: all I ever desired in a duel with him was security against assassination. The idea that I am so excellent a marksman has originated entirely in his own fears. So far from it, I actually have not shot a pistol for fourteen months.

In the course of the day, on Tuesday, I rode to Leesburg. Mr. Dulany's promised communication had not arrived. It was then suggested to me, that Mr. John M'Carty would pretend to construe my refusal to permit him to prescribe the terms of the duel, into a refusal to fight him, and that he would proceed immediately to Alexandria and resort to a newspaper publication to that effect. I could readily believe Mr. M'Carty to be capable of such conduct, particularly as I knew, from his character, that he would eagerly catch at the least chance of escape. But I thought he had better advisers than to be permitted to take a course so ridiculous. After some consultation with a friend or two, it was determined to wait that day for Mr. Dulany's expected communication; and if it did not arrive, to send off an express early the next morning with my letter to him. Late in the evening the following letter was received from Mr. Dulany: and although it bears date Alexandria, 20th of May, it was received in Leesburg, on the evening of the 19th.

To GEORGE RUST, Jr. Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by my friend Mr. John M'Carty to say that General A. T. Mason having unequivocally rejected his communication, precludes the possibility of his receiving any further communication, either directly or indirectly, from the General. Very respectfully,

Alexandria, May 20th, 1818.

JAS. H. DULANY.

Early next morning (Wednesday) a young gentleman of great respectability and intelligence, set out express for Alexandria, with my letter to Mr. Dulany. He went to Alexandria, but could not find or hear any thing of Mr. Dulany or Mr. John M'Carty. Mr. Dulany's letter being dated Alexandria, had induced me to search for them there. On Thursday evening the messenger returned from Alexandria to Leesburg. By this time Mr. M'Carty, after having eluded the most vigilant pursuit, had ventured to shew himself in Leesburg. And it now appears that he was seen in Aldie, thirty four miles from Alexandria, on the evening of the 19th, and morning of the 20th, when I had been led to pursue him to Alexandria.

It had been better for him if he had kept himself concealed a little longer.—For no sooner did the bearer of my letter to Mr. Dulany return from Alexandria to Leesburg, than did my friend Mr. Rust, with a promptitude and decision of character which distinguishes him on all occasions, call on Mr. M'Carty with my letter to Mr. Dulany, telling him at the same time, that he receiv-

edit on Tuesday morning and had forwarded it to Alexandria on Wednesday by express. Mr. M'Carty refused to receive the letter. Mr. Rust told him the purport of it.* He replied it came too late, and refused to receive it, thus rejecting the proposition it contained. Early on Friday morning, Mr. Rust gave the letter to Dr. Wilson, an intimate friend of Mr. M'Carty. The Dr. called on Mr. M'Carty and told him that he had such a letter in his possession, and that I had agreed to waive all objection to the form of his challenge and to "*fight him on his own terms.*" Mr. M'Carty again refused to receive the letter, saying it was too late, and thus again rejected the proposition it contained. To silence all cavilling on the subject, I submit the following statement from Mr. Rust and Mr. Samuel M. Edwards:—

The above letter from General Mason to Mr. Dulany was enclosed to me in the one which precedes it by General Mason, very early on Tuesday morning, the 19th. It was shown in confidence to major Mains, John I. Harding, Esq. and Joshua Osburn, Esq. *At that time, nothing had been heard from Mr. M'Carty, or Mr. Dulany after his interview with General Mason at major Mains's, on the 17th.* Late in the evening of the 19th, I received a note from Mr. Dulany, a copy of which is inserted above. Early next morning I enclosed the above letter by express to Mr. Dulany, who from the date of his note was supposed to be in Alexandria. The young gentleman who undertook to carry the letter to Mr. Dulany, went to Alexandria, but he could hear nothing of Mr. M'Carty or Mr. Dulany. He immediately returned to Leesburg. He arrived about 5 or 6 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Mr. M'Carty had got to town a short time before him. I took General Mason's letter to Mr. Dulany, waited on Mr. M'Carty, and told him that I had in my possession a letter from General Mason to his friend, Mr. James H. Dulany; that I received it early on Tuesday morning, and prior to receiving Mr. Dulany's note to me; that on Wednesday morning early, I sent it to Alexandria, and that the messenger returned without being able to hear any thing of Mr. Dulany or himself. Mr. M'Carty replied that he would receive no communication from Gen. Mason. I then stated to him the purport of General Mason's letter. Mr. M'Carty replied that it was too late—that he would receive no communication whatever from Gen. Mason. I then gave the letter to Dr. Wilson, a particular friend of Mr. M'Carty, and requested him to hand it to Mr. M'Carty, and after seeing Mr. M'Carty on the subject, to let me know his answer. Dr. Wilson, after seeing Mr. M'Carty, returned me the letter, and related to me what had passed between him and Mr. M'Carty, precisely in purport, and very nearly in the language, of the following certificate, which I prepared and presented to him for his signature, but which he refused to sign, assigning as his only reason that he did not wish to have any thing further to do with the matter, as it might appear too officious in him. The certificate is immediately subjoined.

GEORGE RUST, Jr.

"*At the request of Mr. George Rust, Jr. I waited on Mr. John M'Carty, and told him I had in my possession two letters to Mr. James H. Dulany, the one from Mr. Rust, the other from General Mason. Mr. M'Carty asked me if they were the same that Mr. Rust had in his possession the evening be-*

* The "purport" of it was at this time no secret, and generally admitted to be a refusal to fight on "any terms."

J. M. M'C.

fore; I told him they were—upon which Mr. McCarty refused to read or receive the letter. I then stated to him that the purport of General Mason's letter was that he would waive all objection to the form of his challenge, and fight him on his own terms. Mr. McCarty said it was too late; that he would receive no communication from General Mason. Mr. McCarty admitted, in a conversation with me, that General Mason was not bound to accept his challenge on the terms prescribed, but that on such an occasion General Mason ought to have waived etiquette. The above-mentioned letters were left with me by Mr. Rust, and the above conversation with Mr. McCarty had early on the morning of the 22d day of May, 1818."

At the request of Mr. George Rust, Jr. I state that I was present when Mr. Rust presented the foregoing certificate to Dr. Wilson for his signature; that Mr. Rust as well as the Doctor read it; that the Doctor admitted the correctness or truth of it, but declined signing it, for the reason before stated by Mr. Rust.

SAMUEL M. EDWARDS.

And why, let me ask, was it too late for Mr. McCarty to receive my proposition to resign my commission and meet him on his own terms? At that time no publication had appeared. My proposition was made before he had announced or even devised the very ingenious and novel subterfuge of declaring he would receive no further communication from me. But upon what authority or principle could he pretend to refuse my proposition at any time? Did "etiquette" forbid it? He tells us "he violated etiquette" in prescribing the terms upon which he would agree to fight. How came he then so suddenly to become a stickler for "etiquette?" "On such an occasion I think Mr. McCarty ought to have waived etiquette."

But "etiquette" had nothing to do with it. It was rank cowardice, and nothing else, that made him refuse. And this will now be acknowledged by every candid man in the community. I certainly had a right, in the first instance, to object to the form of his challenge, (admitted by himself to be objectionable,) and afterwards to waive that objection. Mr. McCarty has not the poor excuse, upon which he would now be glad to rest his hopes, that having declared he would receive no further communication from me, "etiquette" (which he never violated) obliged him to reject my proposition. He has not even that poor excuse, for I had made my proposition long before I heard of his declaration, as will be seen by reference to the dates of my letter to Mr. Dulany, and of his to Mr. Rust. Mine is dated the 18th, his on the 20th.* But even after having made that declaration, can any man believe that Mr. McCarty would have adhered to it, and rejected my repeated propositions to resign my commission and fight him, on any terms, if he had not been afraid to fight me. The truth is, he adopted an unprecedented and inadmissible mode of challen-

* The reader will recollect that he has acknowledged the receipt of this letter on the 19th; and after this, he attempts to build an argument on its accidental date of the 20th. J. M.M.C.

ging, with no other view than to avoid the consequences of a regular challenge, and with breathless eagerness he caught at an anticipated and just exception to the form of his challenge in order to avoid a duel. If additional proof can be required, look again at the statement of Mr. Edwards. From that statement it appears that Mr. M'Carty expressly admitted to his friend, Dr. Wilson, that "*I was not bound to accept his challenge on the terms prescribed.*"* If, then, he knew I was not bound to accept it on such terms, and that it was not such a challenge as I ought to accept, he must have anticipated that I would object to those terms, and he must have prescribed them with the particular view of escaping the consequences of sending such a challenge as I ought to have accepted. To ensure success to this artifice, he attempted abruptly to break off the correspondence, precipitately fled from the neighbourhood, and for several days eluded my most vigilant pursuit. And when at last he was overtaken, he receded from his own terms and peremptorily refused to accede to any that could be proposed. He chose rather to avoid a fight, however disgraceful, by stepping at once in the newspapers, and mis-representing the whole transaction. Comment upon such conduct would be a waste of words.

Before I heard from Mr. Rust that Mr. M'Carty refused to read my letter to Mr. Dulany, or to receive any communication from me, I had prepared a letter to him. Upon receiving that information from Mr. Rust, I would have stopped short, for I was more firmly convinced than ever that Mr. M'Carty would not fight if he could possibly help it. Extremely anxious however to avoid a newspaper controversy; perceiving that he, notwithstanding his great "*contempt for a war of words,*" was endeavoring to give the affair that turn; believing still that he might be "*kicked into a fight,*" and resolved to leave him no excuse, I determined to make another effort by sending the letter. And if nothing else would do, to agree to become the challenger rather than renew a contest in the newspapers, which I feared would be considered as disgraceful to us both, although I was conscious of having done every thing in my power to avoid it. My last communications were to this effect, and I give them in the words of Mr. Rust, who was the bearer of them.

On Friday morning, the 22d of May, I called on Gen. Mason, to inform him that Mr. M'Carty refused to receive his letter to Mr. Dulany, and also refused to receive any communication from him. Before I arrived, Gen. Mason had prepared a letter to Mr. M'Carty, which he shewed me. In that letter he stated that he would agree to resign his commission, accept

* his positively deny.—I never made such an admission to Dr. Wilson, as will appear from that gentleman's *own statement*, connected with the *second statement* of Mr. Edwards—both of which may be seen in the Leesburg Washingtonian of the 23d of June.

Mr. M'Carty's challenge, and fight him at *three feet, or three inches if he preferred it, provided he could be secured against Mr. M'Carty's firing before the word was given, and thus assassinating him.** It was accompanied by a written memorandum addressed to me, requesting me, if Mr. M'Carty rejected that proposition, to inform him that Gen. Mason would, in order to terminate at once and forever a disgracefully protracted quarrel, resign his commission and agree to become the challenger (if he could be assured that Mr. M'Carty would fight on any terms which would not enable him to commit assassination with impunity)—that it then would be, Mr. M'Carty's right to prescribe the terms of the duel, a right which he would not attempt to take from him.

Gen. Mason said that notwithstanding Mr. M'Carty's declaration that he would receive no communication from him, he would make another effort to terminate their quarrel without going into the newspapers, (*for at that time no publication had appeared, nor did any appear until Friday evening*)† and that if Mr. M'Carty rejected those propositions, he should have done all he could to avoid a newspaper controversy, and Mr. M'Carty might take the consequences of his own conduct. About 12 or 1 o'clock of that day I inquired for Mr. M'Carty, and was informed he had rode out: about 3 o'clock I called on Mr. M'Carty with the abovementioned communications, and told him I wished to have some private conversation with him: he at once replied that he would converse with me on any other subject than that of Gen. Mason's communications. I then told him I had

* This offer to fight me (as he calls it) is exactly like the offer contained in the "written memorandum" which immediately succeeds it. His fighting, in both, would depend upon his receiving security that I would not "fire before the word was given, and thus assassinate him." What security was it possible for me to give that I would not "fire before the word was given," other than that which he deems insufficient? Observe—*"It would have been worse than madness and folly to have put my life in the power of a cowardly and unprincipled assassin, with no other security than his honor."* But independently of his own assertion to that effect, the circumstance of his asking security shows that "my honor" would not have been received as "security against assassination;" and as that was the only pledge which it was possible for me to give in such a case, his two last offers, certified to by Mr. Rust, so far from being considered as an agreement to fight, can only be regarded as *expressive of his determination not to fight on "any terms."* That cowardice urged him to demand such "security," is obvious—for if he had really supposed me capable of "assassination," he could not possibly have believed that I would have invited him to the field to commit the act in the presence of witnesses, when I could have assassinated him any day I chose, and escaped the penalties of the law. But if he believed himself secure from this mode of attack, many opportunities of "assassination" would have occurred on the field, even if the fighting distance had been stipulated at "fifteen yards."

J. M. M.C.

† It was Friday evening Mr. Rust called on me. At that time I had corrected the proof sheet of my publication, and a few minutes after, it was sent me for circulation.

J. M. M.C.

communications from Gen. Mason for him, which he positively refused to receive or hear any thing from the General.

GEORGE RUST, Jr.

It thus appears that my letter to Dr. Tolls was produced by a *threat* from Mr. M'Carty to challenge Mr. George Mason (Chester or myself, if either of us had lent my pistols to Mr. Handy. That Mr. M'Carty, notwithstanding his wanton and positive threats to challenge me, failed, as he did last winter, when it came to the test; and would not have challenged me, but that he discovered I had unquestionable proof of his having used that threat:

That *thus compelled to challenge*, he adopted a mode of challenging wholly unprecedented, and which he knew and admitted to be objectionable:

That when he found his challenge, objectionable as it was, would be accepted, he most disgracefully receded from his own terms, and would not fight on any that could be proposed:

That I never did refuse directly or indirectly to accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, but on the contrary that *I distinctly and repeatedly* told Mr. Dudley, the bearer of his challenge, that I would resign my commission, accept a challenge from Mr. M'Carty and fight him: but that I would not permit him to prescribe the terms of the duel, which he, being the challenger, had no right to do:

That I afterwards agreed to resign my commission, and then to waive all objection to the form of Mr. M'Carty's challenge, and fight him on terms which he and every other person should acknowledge were in every possible respect perfectly equal, and desperate to the last degree; and that he rejected this proposition:

That I then offered to resign, and after having done so to agree to meet Mr. M'Carty on his own terms;—and finally to resign and to agree to become the challenger if I could be assured that he would fight. But all in vain. Mr. M'Carty could not be brought out to fight on any terms. And yet at the very period of time that he thrice refused to fight on any terms, he was printing a libellous handbill, in which he charges me with cowardice. Can such a man have any respect for the good opinion of society? Can he have any sense of honor or shame? After this I do presume that we shall hear no more of the heroism of Mr. John M'Carty: not even from the most violent of my enemies: and that he will be the only man left, as he has always been the first and loudest, to boast of his valor.

I have gone into this very minute detail of all the circumstances, to guard as much as possible against future misrepresentations of the subject, and because I am resolved never more to take any notice whatever of Mr. John M'Carty, or any thing that comes from him. I felt it due to myself and to my friends to make this developement, before I dismissed forever a subject, which k

am extremely mortified at being again compelled to touch at all. I shall therefore certainly decline to meet Mr. John M. Carty in the newspapers; nothing short of absolute necessity ever made me, in any instance, take that field against him. I shall not even reply to his handbills which are now before the public.

I know not in what terms to apologize to the public, to my friends and to my family, for having ever condescended to notice Mr. John M. Carty. Every gentleman, who has ever had the humiliating misfortune to have been involved in a quarrel with such a man, will duly appreciate the difficulties I have had to encounter in the contest, and will, I know, be disposed to excuse me if I have sometimes erred. It was aptly remarked by a federal quaker, of this county, who was candid enough to confess the truth, "that Mr. John M. Carty would never have been noticed if I had not kicked him out of the ashes." I indeed felt myself responsible for having given a consequence to him which he otherwise never would have had; and he, intoxicated with it, had become a nuisance to the neighborhood. As some atonement for my fault in giving him that consequence, I have arrested his career in his attempts to disturb the peace of our society. I have shewn this ass in lion's skin to be quite a harmless creature. He can no longer terrify timid women and children. I hope even the candid quaker will excuse me for having "kicked Mr. John M. Carty from the ashes," since I have put him back again where I found him. And if I am to blame for having elevated him, by a mistaken admission, to the rank of a gentleman, it must be acknowledged that I have, with much pains, reduced him to his former and proper level; and I have now done with him forever.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON.

Selma, 30th May, 1818.

[No. 4.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

It will be recollected that my publication bearing date May 21, appeared on the 22d of the same month. On the day of its date, however, it was seen and read by several of my friends, one of whom was Mr. Wilson C. Seldon, Jr. who would certify to the fact were it necessary. In that publication, and in the one which was extorted from me a few days after, by a handbill, signed "Editor Genius Liberty," it will be seen that the course I have pursued, with regard to general Mason, in both of those addresses, was dictated by the most incontrovertible proofs of his cowardice. Although those proofs were before sufficiently conclusive, yet they are now, if possible, made more transparent in general Mason's long "promised narrative of facts," which appeared in the *Genius* of the 9th June, and which commences

with an exordium, containing a *relying* and *pileous* "last appeal to the public," for being "forced by the most extraordinary circumstances to appear before the public" "to fight his battles" with his favorite weapons pen and ink, as he could not surmount the "*extraordinary circumstance*" of fighting them with pistols "*at the distance of three feet.*" His exordium embraces also some strictures on my want of "*endowments moral or intellectual,*" which are so strikingly applicable to himself, that I cannot pass them without comment. These remarks, however, present but a miniature likeness of him, who, but a short time since, while an *excellent* customer at dirty inns, was the *wretched* and *pitied* victim of *inebriation*; and whose *profanations* of late years, may perhaps find some apology in that *paucity* of *talent* which rendered him so *conspicuously dumb* in the senate of the United States; and which indeed was anticipated by many of his own party, who best knew him, when his elevation to that distinguished station was proposed. It is said that on one occasion, while a member of that body, he endeavored to sustain the dignity of his constituents by participating in the discussion of a question of some moment; but notwithstanding the *soothing encouragement* and the *benevolent assistance* which he received from a distinguished federal member, he clownishly acknowledged, in his *difficulties*, that that was no "field for him," and in making known his determination to leave the senate, he *honestly* implied that his *dearth* of *brains* had induced that determination. And yet after this *luminous display* of his *intellectual powers*, which is known from Maine to Georgia, you find him *unblushingly* animadverting upon the poverty of another's mind. In my last I commented on the statement which is now to be seen in general Mason's "last appeal" of 9th June, in two certificates, signed by Dr. Tebbs and Mr. Humphreys. Dr. Tebbs I have long known as an acquaintance and a friend, and my knowledge of his character convinces me, that he has *innocently* misapprehended the nature of my threat relative to gen. Mason; for it is not reasonable to suppose that I at that time would threaten to challenge a man whom I had a few weeks before published as a "disgraced coward," and in the face of his public declaration that he would never fight me. As I have previously stated, I remarked that I would challenge gen. Mason, if he had lent pistols to Mr. Handy, for the purpose of being used against me, *but for our last publications.* But it is of no consequence, for the certificates in their present and incorrect form, are not at all injurious to me; and for the sake of argument I will admit for a moment their correctness. They both concur in stating, that I threatened to challenge him, "if he had loaned pistols to Mr. Handy, for the purpose of being used against me." This was the condition upon which I was to challenge him; but I was entirely exonerated from any obligation to cad on him upon that ground; because he says in his letter to Dr. Tebbs,

"*'tis true I did not know, or even suspect that the pistols were for Mr. Handy.*" What then do these certificates avail General Mason? Nothing except that they place him in a most ludicrous situation, and forcibly exemplify the truth of the old proverb, "that a drowning man will catch at straws." He insists upon it that I was bound to execute the threat contained in the certificates, because he positively denied having loaned the pistols to Mr. Handy. If, as the certificates state, I was pledged to challenge him, if he loaned his pistols for a *particular purpose*, it certainly cannot be believed that I was under any obligation to challenge him, because he said he did not "know or even suspect" that they were intended for that purpose. According to his mode of reasoning, I was bound to challenge him for lending them, and bound to challenge him for not lending them.

This logical conclusion affords a happy specimen of the "intellectual endowments" of this *quandam senator*. But he further remarked in his letter to Dr. Tebbs, "that if he had known all the circumstances, he should have lent the pistols to Mr. Handy." This remark does not come under the threat ascribed to me in the certificates; for by them I was pledged to challenge him, if he had *already* committed a particular act, and not pledged to challenge him for his avowal that he would have committed that act "if he had known all the circumstances." So that in no possible way can those certificates, to use his own words, have "entrapped me in my own toils."

His insulting and unprovoked communications through Dr. Tebbs, forbidding all communications between us, "either directly or indirectly," except a "direct challenge," can only be regarded as a direct invitation to me to challenge him. In accepting that invitation, and in prescribing the terms, I in a former publication said that "I might *possibly* have violated etiquette." But the most mature reflection on the subject has not enabled me to discover any difference between an invitation to challenge and an invitation to fight. The former *generally* leads to the latter, and an invitation of the one, is in fact an invitation of the other. This great "stickler" for "morality" cannot then deny that his communication was "morally" a challenge at least; and I am supported in the opinion that I have not *violated etiquette* by every gentleman acquainted with the laws of duelling, with whom I have conversed. When I received this invitation, I at once determined on my course, and spoke in the presence of Dr. Tebbs of the character of the challenge I should send him in return. The Doctor replied, that he did not wish to hear my determination, as a knowledge of it might possibly disqualify him for taking his seat in the legislature. I conversed no more with him on the subject, but instantly wrote to my friend Mr. Dulaney, explained to him the circumstances, and requested his immediate attendance.—In a few days he arrived, and became the bearer of the challenge which Gen. Mason has

rejected. The conversation I had with Mr. Humphreys, and which is in *haste* quoted in his *second certificate*, related *solely* to the *threat* which is contained in his *first*; but Gen. Mason *attempts* to produce the belief that I hesitated about calling on him after I received his letter and message through Dr. Tebbs. This *pitiful* falsehood betrays, in proper colors, the real character of the *boasting* and *contemptible* puppy, with whom it has been my lot to come in collision.

In one part of his "narrative of facts," he says, "never did a poor devil do an act with more painful reluctance, and with more awful and appalling apprehensions of the *consequences*, than did Mr. John M'Carty put his *trembling* hand to an evasive challenge against me." In another part he says, "as it was not such a challenge as I ought to accept, he must have anticipated that I would object to those terms." Cogent reasoning this: I "anticipated" his rejection of the challenge; and yet I put my "*trembling* hand" to it with fearful and appalling apprehensions of the consequences in which his anticipated refusal to fight would involve me. Again—"On 17th, the challenge was handed me by Mr. Dulany; it dictated the terms upon which Mr. M'Carty, the challenger, would agree to fight; the first time this, I venture to affirm, since the age of chivalry began, that the challenger ever pretended to dictate the terms upon which he would agree to fight." It will be seen by what has passed, that I was amply justified in prescribing the terms; but there are precedents which will incontestibly prove that the terms have been presented by the challenger, and that too when the challenge was uninvited. One example will be a sufficient illustration of the fact; and I state it on the authority of a gentleman of the highest respectability. Col. Magee, while stationed at Natchitoches, and acting as lieutenant in a corps of artillery, was challenged by a gentleman to fight him, with broad swords. No objection was made by Col. Magee to his *prescribing* the *terms*, and they met and fought. In the hope of imposing on the vulgar, and with them to extricate himself from his *present dilemma*, he exultingly introduces into his "narrative of facts" all the circumstances of a duel he once fought, and "upon terms as desperate as Mr. M'Carty could have wished;" which terms, he says, would have been prescribed if I had challenged him in the usual way. The result of this duel shows, indeed, the equality as well as the desperation of the terms. They stood, he says, *fifteen yards* apart, with two pistols each, and were to advance and fire at pleasure. By his first fire, "Mr. Noland was severely wounded," and he received that gentleman's two fires and "escaped unhurt;" and yet he considers the terms as desperate and equal. If I had challenged him to a contest of that kind, and he could have gotten clear of his commission and fought, he would, most probably, have again "escaped unhurt" on the field; and I have shewn in a previous publication the strongest reasons for believing that if

he had survived me, the duelling law would have been repealed with regard to him, while if I had killed him it would have been enforced against me with all its horrors; and hence I invited him to meet me on terms which would have ensured dissolution to both. He now says that his principal reason for rejecting the challenge was that "he had no security that a man of my character would not fire before the word was given, and *this was the reason which was withheld from my friend, Mr. Dulany, in consideration of his feelings.*" As he had stated that he would "accept a challenge of the usual kind," and that mine would be accepted "upon his being informed that it was modified," Mr. Dulany addressed a letter to his friend, Mr. Rust, about 9 o'clock the next morning (18th May,) but which, in consequence of bad weather, was not delivered until the 19th, about 3 o'clock. But some little advantage is now wished to be gained by the date of this letter, and that too after Gen. Mason's own acknowledgment that it was received on the 19th. Observe, "mine is dated on the 18th, (he should have said antedated) his on the 20th"—this brings to mind again the old proverb:

To GEORGE RUST, Jr. Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by my friend Mr. John M'Carty to say that General A. T. Mason having unequivocally rejected his communication, precludes the possibility of his receiving any further communication, either directly or indirectly, from the General. Very respectfully,

Alexandria, May 20th, 1818.

JAS. H. DULANY.

This letter being despatched inhibiting all communication, "directly or indirectly," Mr. Dulany was no longer acting as my friend, and wishing before he returned to Alexandria, his place of residence, to visit his estate, near Middleburg—I accompanied him part of the way thither. On the 21st, I returned to Leesburg, and had no sooner arrived there, than I found it reported that General Mason had now agreed to fight, *provided the governor would inform him of the acceptance of his commission*, and that a letter to that effect had been sent to Alexandria to Mr. Dulany.* This intelligence only strengthened my first determination to receive from him no communication "directly or indirectly," and I accordingly (as was known by Gen. Mason after he received

* Gen. Mason will find it difficult to produce a precedent to sustain him in the hope that he will be rescued from the imputation of cowardice, by the letter which he sent to Mr. Dulany three days after he unequivocally rejected my challenge, and after the receipt of Mr. Dulany's letter assuring him he would receive from him "no communication either directly or indirectly." Thus it appears that he sent the letter, because he knew it would not be received. And after all this vaunting about it, it is discovered to be nothing more than a deliberate rejection of my challenge.

Mr. Dulany's letter) rejected his friend's attempts to commune with me relative to himself, and proceeded to stigmatise him before the public, with the odious epithets *he deserved*. But let us examine those communications now before the public, and upon which he has rested *all his hopes of temporal salvation*. We are informed by himself, that at *sunrise* on the 19th, two days after he had refused my challenge, he prepared a letter to Mr. Dulany, (*antedated only one day*.) and which he no doubt hopes the public will, in *pity* to his "*last appeal*," consider as an acceptance of my challenge. But let the epistle appear in all the splendor of its "*sunrise*" auspices—"And I now inform you, that as soon as I receive the governor's acceptance of my commission, I will accept a challenge from Mr. John M'Carty, and meet and fight him on terms which he shall acknowledge are equal." I know not how to express *my contempt for the cowardly wretch* who would thus *presume upon a commission, the resignation of which he "tendered" during the last winter, and the acceptance of which was refused by the Governor; for it was returned to him, and he is again shielded by that impenetrable coat of mail*. If, when Mr. Rust mentioned this letter to me, I had *received and read it*, I should only have seen that what I had previously heard of it was correct, and should then have regarded it as I do now, a *cowardly subterfuge*. I wanted no greater triumph than I enjoyed in his *entire prostration*. I had my *foot upon his neck*, and I could not let him rise from the *degraded state* to which his cowardice had reduced him, upon the delusive promise that he would fight me, *provided he could "receive the governor's acceptance of his commission."* He might as well have said he would fight me, *provided he could obtain his wife's consent*. Publicity at this time had been given to the subject. It had no doubt ere this reached Richmond "*by express*," and independent of the personal influence which on such an occasion he might have with the governor and council, some of whom are his intimate friends, they were bound by *legal and moral obligations* not to *accept his commission for the purpose of enabling him to fight a duel*. He therefore well knew that the *condition* upon which he said he would meet me, on "*desperate terms*," could *never be complied with*, and consequently his "*sunrise*" epistle can only be construed as a *positive and deliberate rejection of my challenge*.—Can the subject admit of a solitary doubt? Can it be believed that the governor would, at this time, "*accept the resignation of his commission*," for the *purpose of enabling him to fight a duel*, when he refused to accept it last winter, when there was no danger of his being involved in a duel (he having declared that he would submit to a gross insult rather than challenge me)? If this "*moral*" man had *ever intended to accept my challenge*, he would have considered his commission as "*morally*" resigned as soon as he sent it to the governor, and *determined no longer to hold it*. That it would have been "*morally*" resigned, no one can doubt, and the terms of the duel would have

secured us both from the operation of legal penalties. This is one view of the subject, admitting that his receipt of the governor's acceptance of his commission was necessary to *legalise* its resignation; but it is susceptible of another, which will involve him still deeper in disgrace. Why make the *receipt* of the *governor's acceptance* of his commission the condition upon which he would fight on "equal terms?" If he had been disposed to fight, even at this late hour, he would have said nothing about receiving the governor's acceptance, for *he well knew* that it was not necessary to hear from the governor on the subject, and that his commission was *legally resigned* as soon as he sent it to him, accompanied by a letter of resignation. This the annexed law will shew.

An act to amend the militia laws of this commonwealth, passed Jan. 10, 1815.

"SECTION 8. And be it further enacted, That any officer of the militia not under arrest at the time, *may, whenever he shall think proper, resign his commission, by tendering the same, accompanied by a letter of resignation, to the governor, or to the commandant of the regiment to which he may belong.*"

After this, he is welcome to all the credit he can get by his *silly* and *contradictory* letter to Mr. Dulany, and I will now proceed to the examination of that recited by Mr. Rust, in his *third certificate*, and which Gen. Mason pretends to think will bolster up his fallen reputation: mark well what Mr. Rust says of it, for it shall be given in his own words. In that letter he stated that "he would resign his commission, accept Mr. M'Carty's challenge, and fight him at three feet, or three inches if he preferred it, *provided he could be secured against Mr. M'Carty's firing before the word was given, and thus assassinating him.*"—Poor timid creature! The only pledge which it is possible for a man to give, "that he would not fire before the word is given," is his *honor*. That, from me, he deems insufficient, and gives it, in his "last appeal," as an apology for not accepting my challenge. "It would have been madness and folly to put my life in the power of a cowardly and unprincipled assassin, with no other security than *his honor.*" So that the only pledge which it was *possible* for me to give on such an occasion, was the *very one* which it was impossible for him to receive. "The first time this, I venture to affirm, since the age of chivalry began," that security against assassination was ever "pretended" to be asked; for independently of the security which is *implied*, General Mason had ample security in his friend, whose *sacred duty* it would have been to have put me to instant death, if I had acted dishonorably on the field. So that this is another *deliberate rejection* of my terms; for the *proviso* contained in the conclusion, destroys the first part of the letter, and the whole exhibits him in the character of a *stupid, shuffling poltroon*. But the marrow of the story

is yet to come.—An important “written memorandum” accompanied the letter, which is also embraced in Mr. Rust’s *third certificate*, and by him thus described: “If Mr. M·Carty rejected that proposition, to inform him that Gen. Mason would, in order to terminate at once and forever a disgracefully protracted quarrel, resign his commission and agree to become the challenger, if he could be assured that Mr. M·Carty would fight on any terms which would not enable him to commit assassination with impunity. Mr. M·Carty could then prescribe the terms,” &c. I had already prescribed the terms, and his becoming the challenger he well knew would not change them.

This written memorandum is a copy in substance of the letter recited by Mr. Rust. The condition upon which he would fight, is the same in both, and the reasoning I have applied to the one will suit the other. My challenge contained the only terms which would have placed me on an equality with Gen. Mason. I was warranted in prescribing them by the character of his previous communication, and as he, both in the letter and “written memorandum,” considers my honor no security against assassination, he cannot believe that he ever thought of accepting those terms.

Before I dismiss the two latter evidences of valor, I can assure Gen. Mason that if I had seen or heard of them three weeks before I did, or indeed on the very day that he refused my challenge, I should have considered them both as positive rejections of that challenge.

The *anonymous certificate* contained in the “narrative of facts,” and upon which Gen. Mason dwells with considerable emphasis, scarcely needs a comment. His case must indeed be desperate, when he adopts the ludicrous expedient of propping his character on the slender foundation of an anonymous statement. I refer the public to Mr. Edwards’s *second certificate*, published in the *Washingtonian* of the 23d June, for an explanation of all the circumstances which led to the publication of the *anonymous certificate*. It will be found by Mr. Edwards’s statement that when the last mentioned certificate was presented to Dr. Wilson for his signature, that he would not sign it, and said “he did not see the necessity of his giving a certificate at all; but that if it was insisted upon, he would give one saying that he took the letters, left them at his house, and waited on Mr. M·Carty, telling him that he had such in his possession, which he could see or read if he wished to do so; that Mr. M·Carty immediately asked if they were the same Mr. Rust had the evening before; that he told him he believed they were, he having just received them from Mr. Rust; that Mr. M·Carty refused to receive any communication from Gen. Mason, saying it was too late.” And this, it will appear from Mr. Edwards’s statement, was the *only certificate which Dr. Wilson would agree to sign*.

The same statement will show that Dr. Wilson never said



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told him (as is stated in the *anonymous certificate*) "that Gen. Mason was not bound to accept my challenge on the terms prescribed, but that on such an occasion he ought to have waived etiquette;"—but, on the contrary, Mr. Edwards distinctly says that all the Doctor said before himself and Mr. Rust on that subject was only in relation to the remarks contained in my first publication, in which I state that I might possibly have violated etiquette, &c. But observe Mr. Edwards's own recital of Dr. Wilson's remarks: "*and as to that part about waiving etiquette, it is not necessary for me to say any thing about it, for Mr. M-Carty in his piece admits about the same.*" Thus it is shewn by Mr. Edwards that what Dr. Wilson said was only in reference to my own remarks about etiquette, and which were then before the public. Dr. Wilson's statement of the 23d June, contains a recital of what passed between us relative to the letter left with him by Mr. Rust, the folly and stupidity of which letter I have already exposed.

What excuse, I will ask, has he now left? As he has made his "last appeal," we can expect nothing more from him. But some apology must be made for this *crest fallen champion*, as the letter to Mr. Dulany, *that recited by Mr. Rust*, and the written memorandum, have all been proved by the clearest evidence to be only deliberate confirmations of his first refusal of the challenge. We might expect a few vindictory essays, or perhaps another handbill "bearing his stamp," but signed "Editor Genius Liberty;" but unfortunately, "Gen. Mason has no influence over that press!" He cannot conceal his exultation at my having vacated my seat in the Legislature: his witty story of the "candid" quaker betrays that exultation. But let him recollect that in obtaining that triumph he has disgraced himself. An attentive perusal of the entire correspondence between General Mason and myself, will exhibit his character in all its naked deformity. I owe an apology to the public for noticing at all his disgusting details.

This MISERABLE COWARD need no longer employ his emissaries* to "terrify timid women and children:" even they, for the future, will be more amused than alarmed at his vainglorious vaporing. He is now humbled in the dust, where I hope to take my leave of him.

JOHN M. M-CARTY.

Leesburg, June 27, 1818.

* A white servant in the family of Gen. Mason told his wife, most probably at his "instigation," that he was about to fight a duel. The report was industriously circulated, till all the "women and children" of several families were in a state of alarm.



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